

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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ITEM NO: 4

DATE: JULY 15, 1974

SUBJECT: TASS STATEMENT ON SITUATION ON CYPRUS

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THE TASS STATEMENT ON CYPRUS ISSUED TONIGHT IS MOSCOW'S FIRST QUASI-AUTHORITATIVE ISSUANCE SINCE THE COUP AND INDICATES THAT THE USSR'S INITIAL APPROACH WILL BE DIPLOMATIC. IT CAUTIONS THE GOVERNMENT IN ATHENS TO CEASE INTERFERING IN CYPRUS BUT IT DOES NOT MAKE ANY BELLICOSE THREATS REGARDING THE CONSEQUENCES.

THE USSR DOES WARN THAT THE SITUATION MAY CAUSE "SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES." BY REFERRING TO DEMARCHES THAT WERE SENT TO WASHINGTON, LONDON, PARIS, AS WELL AS ANKARA, MOSCOW INDICATES IT EXPECTS THE HELP OF WESTERN POWERS IN

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RESOLVING THE SITUATION. THE STATEMENT ALLUDES TO WHAT MOSCOW SEES AS WASHINGTON'S RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP RESOLVE THE CYPRUS PROBLEM BY REFERING TO THE INCOMPATABILITY OF THE EVENTS ON CYPRUS TO "INTERNATIONAL DETENTE."

THE STATEMENT CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE SOVIETS SUPPORT MAKARIOS RETURN TO POWER IF HE IS ALIVE. IT STRESSES THE "LAWFUL" NATURE OF HIS RULE AND NOTES THAT HIS REGIME IS THE "ONLY" GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. THE STATEMENT SAYS THAT THE "SOVIET PEOPLE" ARE ON THE SIDE OF THOSE OPPOSING THE "MUTINEERS." THIS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT MOSCOW WILL ACTIVELY BACK AN OPPOSITION MOVEMENT EVEN IF MAKARIOS IS DEAD. THE LARGE, WELL-ORGANIZED COMMUNIST PARTY (AKEL) WOULD FORM AN OBVIOUS BASE FOR SUCH A MOVEMENT.

TRIBUTION: WE DIV AND NIO

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